

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Larry Knoche
FROM: Rachel Miller *RM*
DATE: October 12, 1992
SUBJECT: Mid-America Refinery (MARCO), Chanute
=====

Bill Thornton and I visited the MARCO Site in Chanute on October 9, 1992 for the purpose of conducting a site inventory of the present site conditions and especially to note any potentially hazardous substances present. I took many photos and Bill recorded the site visit on a video tape. We generally noted the following conditions:

1. Although a fence is present around most of the site, the site is unfenced along the northwestern area and is accessible to the public. All buildings at the old refinery facility are accessible through open doorways.
2. Many of the buildings are in a dangerous state of decay (caving roofs, floors, and walls).
3. The BS pit in the northwestern site area is accessible to the public and appears to have overflowed along its eastern bank.
4. Storage tanks in many areas of the site have apparently leaked oily product to stand as liquid in the diked areas.
5. Numerous marked and unmarked containers of a variety of substances are located throughout areas of the old refinery.

The attached site visit report contains further detail on the site conditions. Immediate actions should be taken to protect human health especially since children are known to play at the old refinery. Specifically, removal of hazardous substances should be performed and accessibility to the site should be controlled. You had suggested the possibility of an EPA immediate removal.

C. Marvin Glotzbach
Bill Thornton - SEDO

MARCO SITE VISIT REPORT
October 9, 1992

* Buildings and areas referred to in this report are marked on the attached map

#1 - Small building next to lab on southeast side. Many bottles and chemical containers are present in the building; there is an oily substance on the floor and on a mop on floor; 1 file cabinet with papers and files is present; there is much broken and unbroken chemistry glass; the following marked and unmarked containers are present:

- 1 gal. brown bottle TCE
- square can of asbestos fiber
- bottles of sodium oleate
- bottles of calcium sulfate
- calcium chloride bottles
- rusted cans with no marks
- epoxy containers
- bottles of glycerin
- 13 cans of a black oily substance (spot test naptha?)
- large metal square can labeled flammable
- 5 gal. gasoline can in sink
- jar of unknown white dry salt-like substance
- 5 gal. can of n-Heptane
- 1/3 full 5 gal. can of constant temp. bath oil (used)

#2 Small building to the north of #1. The upstairs room contains many pint glass bottles of a brownish liquid (product?) marked with eroded paper labels and numbers; there are many rusted cans with no lids. The downstairs room is very "messy"; 5 gal. bottle of carbon tetrachloride, paint thinner can, and many rusted 1 gal. cans are present.

#3 Main lab building. 1st room: sink full of black water/oil; the roof is leaking badly; there are many computer disks on the floor; the following marked and unmarked containers are present:

- 5 gal. plastic container A-Dimethylpolysiloxane
- bottle of ammonium hydroxide
- at least 100 broken and unbroken pint bottles on shelf

2nd room: many ovens, a centrifuge, chemistry manuals, and other chemical equipment are present; it is difficult to see very well in here; oily tarry substance on cupboards; the following marked and unmarked containers are present:

- pint cans
- 5 gal. brown bottle Isopropyl Alcohol
- bottle of acetone merck
- shelves of many small unmarked and marked bottles: KH_2PO_4 ;

- CaCl₂; lead oxide; silica gel; hyvac oil; tretolite; H₂O₂;
- 1 gal. bottle toluene
 - bottle of methyl orange
 - what appears to be a "homemade bomb" that did not explode- a glass cylinder with with fiber inside;
 - large barometer with mercury still intact at bottom

3rd room: one drum containing unknown substance;

4th room: beads of mercury are present on a counter and nearby floor along with broken glass; the following marked and unmarked containers are present:

- bottles: KMnO₄; Soda Lime; sodium chromate; isopropyl alcohol; amyl alcohol;
- 5 gal. cans: acetone; toluene;
- KCl bottle
- small can that may contain mercury residue?
- small bottle of methyl purple

5th room: water on floor; 5 gal. can of lubricant; hoses and pipes;

#4 Compressor Building. looks like much asbestos material; large drum of gear lubricant?; 5 gal. red can; 3 nitrogen gas tanks in the back room of building; adjacent pump building is flooded;

#5 Blue building at north edge of refinery. many boxes of chemicals present in front room- some include: tetrachloral bromide, anhydrous calcium?, polyethylene glycol; the larger area of building contains one transformer (PCB warning labels are present in the front room);

#6 Building. odor present inside; many drums- some marked acetic acid; rusted drum with red powder substance spilling out; 30 gal.? glass bottle with wood protection; 5 gal. bottle on high shelf appears to have exploded- black tarry substance in pieces of it; drum with oil/bronze liquid; 23 drums appear full or partly full- some marked: rust inhibitor, santoluene; 2 boxes with unknown bottles of chemicals;

#7 Warehouse building. Roof is decaying; some beams and floorboards from the upper level have collapsed; a few drums, and asbestos material? are present on lower level; thousands of quart oil cans are present upstairs along with a few drums;

room at south side of warehouse: contains 4- 5 gal. cans; fiberglass materials?; boxes on shelves; records/files/invoices;

southeast room of warehouse: 21 drums are present apparently full- bottoms are rusted; tret-o-lite de-emulsifier label on one drum; flammable placard on one drum- otherwise they are unlabeled;

#8 Main boiler room. drums present in back area of room; broken glassware; plastic/fiberglass container with some white precipitate; damaged bags of epoxy type material; oily area oosing into west wall of room; standing oil around outside of a building just west of boiler room;

#9 Small building. contains about 50 bags of activated carbon; 5 drums full of methanol; 2 brown bottles of an unknown substance; emergency eyewash station in this building;

adjacent small building containing drums of white material ("sorb-all"?);

#10 Office building. contains a safe, an open refrigerator, many files and papers, a desk, spot remover, cleaners, duplicating fluid; the roof is leaking badly- carpet is soaked with water;

MID AMERICA REFINERY

MAP 7

CONTAMINATED SOIL MAP

N ↑

LEGEND

- CULVERT
- BERMED AREA
- BUILDING OR STRUCTURE
- FENCE
- STEEL DRAIN
- STORAGE TANK
- DIRECTION OF FLOW-DITCH
- CONTROL VALVE
- DRAINAGE LINE
- SEWER LINE
- SEWER FORCE MAIN
- TOP OF DIKE
- CONTROLLED DIKE DRAIN
- RAILROAD
- WELL



